



John Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 Cedar Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

## Parks & Recreation Department

Bruce Till  
Superintendent

### NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Jeff Hedberg called the meeting to order at 7:31PM.

#### II. ROLL CALL

Board: Bill DeBlasio, Bernie Feeney, Eileen Francolino, Jeff Hedberg, Ken Leggo, Mary Udice and Kathy Zolad (7:34 PM).

Board Members Absent: Jon Boni, Ed Marchion, Bob Tofeldt, Don Woods

Staff: Superintendent Bruce Till (7:34PM)

Town Liaison: Deputy Mayor Scott McBride

#### III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, 2011

**MOTION: Ken Leggo made a motion to approve the minutes of February 15, 2011. Mary Udice seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2011 was unanimously approved with a 6-0 vote.**

#### IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

#### V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION/REPORTS

##### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The February monthly report was included in the packet e-mailed to all board members as well as the minutes from the March 3, 2011 meeting of the Clem Lemire Artificial Turf Field Project Building Committee and a copy of a letter from the Town Manager to the parents of the Creative Playtime Preschool Program.

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS

##### EXTRAVAGANZA

There has been one subcommittee meeting. Mary Udice asked what the budget is for a band. This will be discussed further at the subcommittee meeting. Jeff Hedberg asked about a waiver on the ordinance for 10pm for one night of the Extravaganza. Bruce Till is looking into this. Stephanie Boulay and Pat Jarvis from the P&R staff are filling in since the departure of Special Events Coordinator Jodi Lee. Bruce Till mentioned that the part-time position has been advertised and only 2 applicants seemed qualified. The department will advertise the position again to see if more qualified applicants will apply.

Eileen Francolino suggested having a Hot Dog Eating Contest. Provided contestants sign a waiver of liability form, Bruce thought this would be a good idea. Eileen Francolino looked into the Miss Newington contest and there are many rules, fees and regulations. She asked on the high school level and there wasn't much interest. It was decided that the next Extravaganza Committee meeting would be Tuesday, April 5 @ 5PM.

##### TURF FIELD

The Building Committee went with DeRita & Sons Construction Company with the project budget of \$1,215,648. Eileen Francolino asked why the lights were included. Bill DeBlasio stated that it was easier to install during the construction and Kathy Zolad mentioned that it also would be cost-saving. Jeff Hedberg asked when they would break ground on this. Bruce Till anticipates ground breaking will

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take place this spring.

**MOTION: Jeff Hedberg made a motion to proceed with the Base Bid and Alternate One for the synthetic turf field construction and lights at Clem Lemire Recreation Complex with the Project Budget of \$1,215,648. The motion passed unanimously with a 7-0 vote.**

#### SPORTS YOUTH COUNCIL

Kathy Zolad has formulated a list and is in the process of contacting people for the first meeting to discuss safety and field issues.

#### MILL POND GRANT

Bruce Till met with the architect and Jeff Baron. The Inland/Wetland Commission met tonight to hand in the application. The stairway by the falls and the bridge are to be replaced. Looking into paving around the pond. Not enough money to replace the poured-in-place on the playground. The playground equipment is 10 years old. Bruce Till said it is solid and up to code.

Jeff Hedberg asked about the neighborhood parks. Bruce Till said that Beechwood Park is fine but the Beacon Park was vandalized. Equipment is in and should be installed into Candlewyck and Starr Parks. Deputy Mayor Scott McBride had shared some positive comments from a neighbor near Beacon Park regarding the improvements. He also suggested that a dog park may make that park more accessible to adults.

#### SECURITY CAMERA

The camera has been installed and Bruce Till had the opportunity to observe its capacity when he recently visited the Chief's office. This camera goes to police dispatch and can identify as far as the playground area.

Eileen Francolino asked about the skate park and any possible memorials for Shayne Wrobel. Bruce Till said that the park foreman had been notified to remove the memorial tagging now that the weather is warmer and the snow has melted. Mary Udice says that the school did a fundraiser during the Hoopla and there will be some type of memorial for Shayne but his family may be behind it. Bruce Till said when the family is ready then we will proceed.

### VII. NEW BUSINESS

#### PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The First Congregation Church owns property and had some soil tests done which included the play yard that is used by the Creative Playtime Preschool. The tests results came back that there were low levels of contaminants in the play yard's soil. After meeting with the Reverend and the deacon of the Church, Bruce Till and the town manager decided to have a letter sent to the parents of all preschoolers about this matter. The play yard will not be used until several inches of soil is dug up and replaced along with the wood fiber. The State Health department has been notified and is looking into this. We are waiting for answers from the State before the church will proceed in replacing the soil & wood fiber and re-opening the play yard. Bruce Till only has received one phone call thus far from a preschool parent. Bruce Till announced that the summer camp will run a 7 week program from 6/27/11 to 8/12/11. June 24<sup>th</sup> is the last day of school.

#### SOFTWARE

Bruce Till has a meeting planned for 3/17/11 with a software company called Viewpoint. He will see the product, negotiate, involve the manager before a contract is signed.

### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION: Mary Udice made a motion to adjourn, Kathy Zolad seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 8:25PM with a 7-0 vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Loralyn Callahan